

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in Appendix A submitted herewith according to the revision to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, 17, 24, 31-33, 38, 40-41 and 43 are presently pending in the captioned application with claim 1 being amended and claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-23, 25-30, 34-37, 39 and 42 being cancelled.

The sole remaining rejection is over § 112, ¶ 1 because the Examiner notes that magnesium is critical to the claimed invention but is not claimed by virtue of the limitation of " $0 \leq a$ ". The Examiner explained during a telephonic Interview of March 23, 2004, that the instance where $a = 0$ covers a specie not containing magnesium. The Examiner further explained that amendment of the limitation to " $0 < a$ " would be favorably considered. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's suggestion with appreciation and have amended independent claim 1 accordingly.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the amendment, reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection and allow all claims pending in this application.